

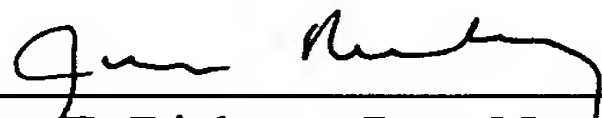
REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Edler et al (US 3,738,893). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Amended claim 9 now recites that a tread belt support arm is rotatably mounted on each manipulator arm, and that the manipulator arms are movable. The Edler reference does not teach nor describe these structural limitations. The Edler tread support arms 18 are not rotatably mounted on each manipulator arm. As Edler fails to anticipate the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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